

Balaninus brassicæ, Fab., an inquiline, not a gall-maker.—Mr. Rye having kindly pointed out to me, that, of this awkwardly named beetle, the monographer of the genus, M. Desbrochers des Loges, says,—(Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr., 1868, p. 333) “*qu'il détermine une galle sur les feuilles du saule* (de Heyden).” I beg leave to explain, that, so far as my own observations go, the female pierces with the rostrum fully developed galls of a *Nematus* on the leaves of *Salix fragilis*, and deposits therein one or two eggs. The young larvæ feed voraciously on the substance of the gall, and, working their way to the centre, in many cases stifle by their crowding presence the young saw-fly larva to death; and, of course, if, at this period, the galls are examined, the inquiline is found in full possession of the limited free space within. When about half-grown, this beetle-larva has a length of about $\frac{1}{2}$ ”, its colour is a greenish-yellow, the greenish tinge being caused by its full intestines; when full grown, it is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ ” long, but appears shorter by its usually curved position; it is then pale yellow, the head fuscous; the body sprinkled with sparse, isolated, brownish hairs, placed in more or less regular longitudinal rows.

When full-fed, the larva drops to the ground, and, burying at once, forms there a round, earthy cocoon, containing a coating of yellowish silk.

The pupal state lasts about a fortnight or three weeks, when the beetle forces its way out by breaking the cocoon.

Some of the larvæ, which I kept in captivity, abstained from making a cocoon, instead of which they spun over a slight hollow on the surface of the ground an umbrella-shaped silken roof, beneath which they passed their metamorphosis. This roof, about three lines in diameter, possessed in the centre a round spot, so transparent, that the outline of the pupa could be dimly made out. It served as an exit door to the perfect insect.—ALBERT MÜLLER, South Norwood, S.E., 4th September, 1869.

On the habits of Cecidomyia urticæ, Perris.—Having just bred British specimens of this midge from the well-known pale green hairy galls on the stems and leaves of *Urtica dioica*, I offer the following observations concerning its natural history, which may be considered as an unpretending supplement to the accounts published by Perris, Bremi, Loew, and Winnertz. Each gall harbours but one white larva, the alimentary duct of which gives its body a pale greenish hue. A full-fed larva, which I saw on the 22nd August last work its way out of the still closed transverse slit of the pouch, was about a line long, rather flattened; the first segment very slender, beak-like, the second broader, but only half as broad as the third, the fourth to seventh segment each a little broader than the preceding, the eighth the broadest, the ninth to twelfth each slightly diminishing in breadth, the thirteenth considerably narrower, the fourteenth (which is the last), oval, and less than half as broad as the thirteenth, which gives to the latter a truncated appearance. I could not discern any pubescence, but this may be attributed to my lens not being powerful enough. This same larva, placed on earth, burrowed without delay about two lines deep, and on the 4th September, I found that it had changed to a sculptured pupa (described beneath) without spinning a cocoon, or even only a few threads; nor did its companion, which I left quite unmolested, spin at all. This fact is at variance with Winnertz's account, that this larva turns to pupa in a stout (dicht) white silken web (Linnæa, Ent., vol. viii, p. 240). Am I to suppose

that my larvæ abstained from spinning because in the glass jar wherein they were kept they found themselves sheltered against any possible inclemency of the weather? If so, their spinning is a faculty exercised at will, and not merely instinctively.

The pupa was $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, forehead broad, armed on each side with a slight protuberance; behind each eye and located on the thorax, one respiratory, pointed tube; colour of these tubes yellow, their tips fuscous; head fuscous, eyes black, shining, thorax strongly arched, pale fuscous, polished; wing-cases rounded, rather short, pitch black; feeler and leg-cases pitch black, shining; leg-cases twice as long as the feeler-cases; abdomen dirty-yellow, opaque, its upper surface rough and somewhat darker than the rest.

The imago from this pupa, a ♀, appeared on the evening of the 12th September; its companions of both sexes made their appearance within two days afterwards, leaving the ground dotted by their protruded filmy white pupal skins with detached feeler-cases.—ID.

A Corixa flying by night.—When reading, with my window open on account of the heat, on the 27th August last, about nine p.m., when quite dark, I was considerably surprised by a female of *Corixa Wollastoni* flying to my light, around which it flew as madly as any moth, "flopping" down on the table and rising again so quickly that I had considerable difficulty in capturing it. When between my finger and thumb, it emitted an odour quite similar to that of the bed bug, but less powerful and persistent, only clinging to my digits for a few minutes.—THOS. JNO. BOLD, Long Benton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, September 16th, 1869.

Note on the habits of Iassus cruentatus.—My experiences with this pretty Homopteron do not lead me to the same conclusions as those to which Mr. B. Cooke (p. 109) has arrived. Both last summer at Ross-shire, and this year in Inverness-shire, I have met with the species rather commonly, and always upon birch or *Myrica Gale*. Probably it affects other plants, but certainly the yew is not necessary for its existence.—F. BUCHANAN WHITE, Perth, October, 1869.

Parasites on the Pterophori.—Parasites are certainly rare on the larvæ of this group of *Lepidoptera*; an ichneumon has been, however, figured and described by M. Millière, and it has been my misfortune four times to have larvæ so infested. Twice the parasitism occurred in the larvæ of *brachydactylus*, sent to me from Zurich, as noted in the Entom. Mon. Mag., vol. i, p. 215. The dipteran there recorded as one of the *Tachinidæ*, has been kindly sent by Mr. McLachlan to Mr. Verrall, and decided by him to be a *Scopolia*, probably *S. oxypterina* (Zetterstedt). Again this spring, two larvæ of *tephradactylus* were infected, but the evil spirits which haunted them were in this case ichneumons. They were regarded by me as the sexes of one species, but they have been named by Mr. Marshall, *Rogas bicolor* (Spinola), and *Mesochorus pectoralis* (Ratzeburg); both larvæ, as in the former case, had only a single tenant each, and, as in the case of the *brachydactylus*, they became stationary just before their time of change, and when dead, seemed to consist only of a dried larva skin enclosing the parasite, and in the case of *brachydactylus* its cocoon also.—R. C. R. JORDAN, Birmingham, 24th September, 1869.